# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3123
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
EXPANSION OF POST OFFICES IN RURAL AREAS
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**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

(a) the total number of Post Offices in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government contemplates to expand Post Offices in the rural areas on the basis of population;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total amount deposited in the Savings Accounts of Post Offices during the current year, State-wise;

(e) the details of reasons for the difference in the said savings in urban and rural areas;

(f) whether the Government has reduced the number of Postmen in some Post Offices during the current year; and

(g) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) There were 1,55,669 Post Offices in the country as on 31.3.2004.

(b)&(c) Post Offices are opened on the basis of distance, population and income norms and subject to availability of resources. Details are given in Annexure-I

(d) An amount of Rs. 323395.28 crores has been deposited in various types of the Savings Schemes of Post Office Savings Bank during the year 2003-04. Circle-wise details are given in Annexure-II. Data for the year 2004-05 is not yet available.

(e) The Department does not maintain data of Postal Savings Bank for urban and rural areas separately.

(f) & (g) Yes Sir. 1356 posts of Postmen have been ordered to be abolished based on the recommendations of the Screening Committee in compliance with Government's directive to abolish 2% posts under direct recruitment quota.
ANNEXURE

NORMS FOR OPENING POST OFFICES

1. Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:

1.1 Population:

(a) In Normal Areas:

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village).

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 Distance:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated income:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 331/3% of the cost.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost. It is further to be ensured that as a result of opening of new post office, the loss in respect of parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

2. Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub PostOffices:

(a) In Rural Areas:

The Minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

(b) In Urban Areas:

In Urban areas, the post office should initially be self- supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms, in other Urban Areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. from each other.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Annexure- II

OUTSTANDING BALANCE OF SAVINGS SCHEMES (CIRCLE-WISE)

(Rs. in Crores)

| Circle | S.B. | R.D. | T.D. | F.D. | C.T.D. | P.P.F. | M.I.S. | N.S.S.87 | N.S.S.92 | K.V.P. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | 624.13 | 2781.32 | 592.80 | -0.03 | 0.29 | 340.15 | 6857.54 | 160.58 | 29.23 | 5444.26 |
| Assam | 360.72 | 457.03 | 1900.98 | 0.00 | -14.02 | 174.01 | 793.50 | 15.42 | 0.48 | 1866.26 |
| Bihar | 1027.38 | 751.52 | 1614.49 | -0.06 | -43.18 | 313.43 | 2472.48 | -8.76 | 85.32 | 9250.73 |
| Chhattisgarh | 122.40 | 446.42 | 242.86 | 0.00 | -0.81 | 99.65 | 1153.32 | -8.34 | -1.48 | 830.25 |
| Delhi | 449.10 | 999.62 | 933.68 | -1.23 | -1.39 | 1806.90 | 6675.01 | 184.80 | 62.93 | 4485.65 |
| Gujarat | 860.31 | 2114.8 | 1770.78 | -0.121 | 4.31 | 1793.0 | 11552.65 | 700.446 | -64.98 | 12272.21 |
| Haryana | 362.46 | 1283.65 | 1052.57 | 0.00 | 0.48 | 376.44 | 2591.06 | 10.85 | -0.56 | 3525.70 |
| Himachal Pr. | 248.41 | 712.95 | 411.47 | 0.00 | 0.52 | 68.39 | 583.04 | 11.35 | 0.90 | 1452.15 |
| J & K | 153.99 | 204.13 | 360.79 | 0.00 | 0.49 | 38.38 | 332.39 | 3.92 | 15.71 | 1851.40 |
| Jharkhand | 63.42 | 84.14 | 193.09 | 0.00 | 1.58 | 113.87 | 1574.98 | -4.37 | -0.86 | 1136.02 |
| Karnataka | 539.52 | 1809.22 | 309.82 | 0.03 | 1.29 | 474.42 | 5911.84 | 126.82 | 146.97 | 3393.75 |
| Kerala | 301.47 | 2016.11 | 926.70 | 0.01 | -0.49 | 105.49 | 2665.12 | 61.24 | 10.57 | 1435.37 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 571.64 | 1386.72 | 402.10 | -0.02 | 5.71 | 278.21 | 2688.28 | -25.68 | -1.14 | 3898.65 |
| Maharashtra | 1001.79 | 4215.32 | 917.64 | 0.01 | 0.63 | 1788.00 | 15455.47 | 1477.80 | 64.71 | 8939.59 |
| North-East | 208.41 | 329.85 | 113.79 | 0.01 | 14.36 | 31.51 | 432.78 | 6.69 | 4.43 | 838.54 |
| Orissa | 429.44 | 567.44 | 181.23 | 0.09 | 0.00 | 59.67 | 1492.29 | 26.71 | -0.82 | 2677.38 |
| Punjab | 749.37 | 1627.62 | 2565.13 | 0.00 | -0.27 | 980.56 | 4443.46 | 127.82 | 80.83 | 7201.19 |
| Rajasthan | 471.55 | 3975.97 | 3299.75 | 0.01 | 1.14 | 1237.78 | 5418.99 | 150.75 | 34.81 | 4942.07 |
| Tamilnadu | 851.93 | 2074.72 | 730.73 | -0.01 | -0.83 | 691.13 | 6982.68 | 260.73 | 69.17 | 4150.23 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 2291.81 | 3933.90 | 2109.96 | -1.87 | -4.43 | 846.54 | 7114.38 | 92.55 | 188.44 | 22792.28 |
| Uttaranchal | 97.66 | 267.55 | 277.64 | 0.00 | -0.02 | 42.74 | 710.29 | 5.25 | -1.25 | 368.60 |
| West Bengal | 1540.21 | 1802.41 | 1938.91 | 222.78 | 5.79 | 590.73 | 25433.55 | 31.57 | -0.50 | 19426.61 |
| Base | 40.21 | 121.01 | 1219.26 | 0.00 | 0.04 | 14.67 | 50.93 | 2.39 | 2.34 | 12.31 |
| TOTAL | 13367.33 | 33963.50 | 24066.11 | 19.60 | -28.81 | 12265.72 | 113386.04 | 3410.53 | 725.25 | 122191.20 |